

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life
Held on Friday, December 3, 2004
LOY Campus AD 308 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms A. Beck, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Ms Dania Fawaz, Ms Heather Fussell, Mr. D. Gardhouse, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms M. Gruber, Mr. B. Hamideh, Mr. F. Janmohamed, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. O. Moran, Ms S. Novembre, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms K. Sheahan, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms P. Posius, Ms L. Toscano

Delegates: Ms I. Sendek for Mr. W. Curran

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms S. Jones, Ms. A. Reid, Mr. P. Schiefke

ABSENT: Mr. J. Brisebois, Dr. N. Howe, Mr. K. Fox

Guests: Ms J. Hackett

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Côté, seconded by Ms Sheahan, made a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no remarks from the Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF October 8, 2004

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Hamideh, and seconded by Ms Ghadban.

The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Security Costs and Student Events

Mr. Janmohamad noted that as M. Brisebois was not present, council could return to this item when he arrived. Council agreed.

Mr. Janmohamad asked about the security oversight committee – also known as the risk assessment committee. Mr. Pruden said he is on the committee, as is Mr. di Grappa, Mr. Brisebois, Ms Sue Magor, Me. Pierre Fregeau and Mr. Dennis Murphy. Mr. Pruden said he believes the composition of the committee is at the discretion of Mr. di Grappa. Farouk asked if the committee has a mandate; Mr. Pruden said he will look into it and report at the next meeting.

4.2 Revisions to criteria for Student Initiated Projects

Ms Drew spoke briefly to the proposed revisions, which had been distributed previously. She reiterated that the purpose of the revisions is to clarify the process for students. Mr. Janmohamad noted that he supports the revisions. Ms Beck asked if students who had already applied using the old criteria would be at a disadvantage. Ms Drew said there is no “right or wrong” way to apply; that the revisions are for clarification only. No one would be penalized for using the old criteria in preparing their request for funding.

A motion to approve the revisions was made by Ms. Drew and seconded by Dr. Graub.

The motion was carried unanimously

4.3 Appointments to CCSL Sub-committees

Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank CCSL Oversee Committee: Mr. Hamideh agreed to be the undergraduate student representative. Mr. Pruden will appoint a representative from the Dean of Students office. Mr. Côté is the representative appointed by CCSL.

CCSL Awards Committee: Ms Beck and Ms Gruber will be the undergraduate student representatives. The Faculty representative will be determined as soon as possible, as neither faculty members were present at this time. The graduate student representative will be determined as soon as possible, as they were not present at this time.

CCSL Special Projects Committee: Mr. Pruden, Ms Fawaz, Ms Fussell, Mr. Janmohamad, Mr. Schiefke were appointed to the committee.

A motion to approve the appointments was made by Mr. Janmohamad and seconded by Ms Sheahan.

The motion was carried unanimously

4.4 Suggestion of Student Life Issues for Consideration by Council

Mr. Moran brought up the issue of smoking on campus. He said there are many students who smoke and who can spend up to \$1500 per year on cigarettes. He asked how we can be more pro-active, and suggested permanent display cases on campus be installed near the areas where people smoke. He said that Health Services could monitor the display cases and it would complement the health education work that Mr. Moran already does in this area.

Ms. Drew said that this issue had come up at the last Health & Safety meeting. It is not only a student life issue, but indeed an issue of campus wellness. She asked if CCSL would consider collaborating with Environmental Health and Safety on this issue. Other schools have moved smoking areas away from the exit doors. Health Services is exploring ways to make it less punitive, with more focus on helping students to stop. Ms Drew asked if CCSL would like to address the issue of wellness for students in general. Mr. Moran added that at the last meeting it had been agreed that this was an appropriate topic for CCSL to consider. Mr. Hamideh addressed the problem of people smoking in the staircases and fire exits, and remarked that it always smells like smoke. He said that Security had installed cameras, but he wonders if they are being monitored.

Mr. Pruden suggested Council consider a formal motion at the next meeting. He asked if Mr. Moran would liaise with Environmental Health & Safety to look into a joint proposal. Mr. Moran agreed. Mr. Pruden said he will look into the costs of permanent display cases.

Ms Sheahan mentioned that she wants to dispel the urban myth that chewing tobacco is safer – it is not. She said it is not a safer alternative, and it is not easier to maintain. Mr. Pruden suggested implementing “CCSL Spittoons”. Mr. Janmohamed asked that this suggestion be included in the minutes.

Mr. Janmohamed brought up the scarcity of office space for clubs and associations. He asked if CCSL had any input into future plans for space. Ms Posius asked Mr. Janmohamed to speak about the latest initiatives and Mr. Janmohamed noted that lounge space is being created on the 7th floor of the Hall Building. In addition the university is moving ahead with plans for a student centre, which would add lots of space for student groups.

Mr. Hamideh asked if student space was part of the new Engineering Building. Ms Posius said the plans include small gathering and mini-lounge areas. She said there is a commitment from the university to make areas available for students, including the south end of the 7th floor hall Building, and an Atrium in the new Drummond Building.

Mr. Janmohamed asked about retail space in the new buildings, and Ms Posius referred him to Mr. Tony Vanvari.

Mr. Hamideh asked if the new buildings will be implementing a new security system by using student ID cards with bar codes. Ms Posius said that right now the only space using this system of “swiping ID cards” is the Muslim Prayer space on the 7th floor of the Hall Building. She suggested that Council invite Peter Bolla to make a presentation to CCSL regarding the new buildings. Mr. Pruden said he will ask Mr. Bolla to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Hamideh raised the issue of graduating students starting repayment of their student loans. At the moment if students are considered full-time in their final semester, they do not have to begin repayment until 6 months after graduation. However, some students only need 9 credits in their final semester in order to graduate. In the past students have taken extra courses to maintain their fulltime status in order to be eligible for financial aid. Students are asking for a resolution to deal with this problem. Mr. Côté explained that the Government used to set the number of credits to determine eligibility for student aid but now the Government has given the university the responsibility of defining the number of credits that determine full-time status. Mr. Côté said that the university should undertake a review that would begin at Enrolment Services and conclude at Senate. Ms Hedrich asked if the issue was receiving loans for the final semester, or starting repayment before 6 months, or both? Mr. Côté said both are of concern. He said he will take up the issue with Registrars and report back at the next meeting.

Ms Hedrich informed Council that the government is changing the way they distribute loans and bursaries. Starting in January 2005, the money will be direct-deposited into students’ bank accounts. She said that while this sounds good in theory, it causes problems for Student Accounts. They can no longer accept tuition deferrals. With the new system, they won’t be able to put a lien on the money to make sure tuition fees get paid. Winter fees won’t be due at the time students receive their loans and bursaries, so Student Accounts cannot collect those fees in advance.

Mr. Côté said that Financial Aid and Awards was sending emails to students to inform them of this new procedure, and that they are trying to ease students through this big change. Ms Hedrich suggested that she meet with some members of CSU to discuss this matter. Ms. Fussell said she would like to meet with Ms Hedrich as well to discuss the implications for graduate students.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Interim Report 2004-2005:

Mr. Janmohamed informed council that Ms Christina Xydous could not be here today as she has been suspended from her appointment as Coordinator of the Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank until January 2005. As she is the only one prepared to make the report, he asked that it be tabled until the next meeting. Council agreed.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

There were no new student life issues.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Ms Lipscombe mentioned that the bookstore had a very successful book sale last week, with approximately \$500 going to both the emergency student fund and to Centraide. She also informed council that the bookstore is improving its services for students by making a customized book list available for students through the portal. If students subscribe they receive an email a week before classes begin, with their personalized book list and any changes. Dr. Shaver asked if the lists include course packs, and Ms Lipscombe assured her they do. The bookstore is always trying to improve services and is open to suggestions from students.

Mr. Hamideh suggested that we ask the Quebec government to give all taxes from textbooks back to the university. Ms Lipscombe said there is a coalition trying to get the GST removed from the purchase of textbooks.

Ms. Sendek informed Council that 24 hour access to Webster Library will be in effect from December 6 to 17, 2004. Access is restricted to the Concordia community with ID cards.

Mr. Pruden invited Council to start considering items to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING: January 28, 2005 at SGW Hall 769, at 10am.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Ms Sheahan.

The motion was carried unanimously